

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:

a rotation roller;

a plurality of driven rollers which are arranged parallel to an axis of the rotation roller;

and

a plurality of sheet transport guides, each guiding toward the rotation roller, a sheet to be transported between the rotation roller and the driven rollers, each of the sheet transport guides including a torsion coil spring having ~~an~~ a coil portion fixed to a frame, the frame extends along a path where the sheet is to be transported ~~arm portion which is connected to each of the driven rollers, wherein~~

the coil portion has a first arm portion which extends to and is attached to a respective rotation shaft of one of the driven rollers and the coil portion has a second arm extending to and fixed to the frame, an end of the second arm extends away from the coil portion and the end of the second arm is fixed to the frame at a location along the path different from a location of the coil portion,

each of the sheet transport guides applies elastic force to each of the driven rollers so that each of the driven rollers is elastically biased toward the rotation roller, and

each elastic force applied to each of the sheet transport guides is different from each other with distance from a predetermined reference position, ~~and~~

~~the predetermined reference position is located at a position where a sheet S of any size necessarily passes.~~

2-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein the predetermined reference position is located in a central part of the shaft of
the rotation roller.

13. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein the predetermined reference position is located in either one of opposite end
portions of the shaft of the rotation roller.

14. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:
a rotation roller;
a plurality of driven rollers which are arranged parallel to an axis of the rotation roller;
and
a plurality of sheet transport guides, each guiding toward the rotation roller, a sheet to be
transported between the rotation roller and the driven rollers, each of the sheet transport guides
including a torsion coil spring having a coil portion fixed to a frame, where the coil portion has a
first arm portion which extends to and is attached to a respective rotation shaft of one of the
driven rollers and the coil portion has a second arm extending to and fixed to the frame, wherein
each of the sheet transport guides applies elastic force to one of the driven rollers so that
each of the driven rollers is elastically biased toward the rotation roller, and
each elastic force applied to each of the sheet transport guides is different from each other
with distance from a predetermined reference position

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 14, wherein an end of the second arm extends away from the coil portion and the end of the second arm is fixed to the frame at a location different from a location of the coil portion.